

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Date: July 18, 2000

USDA FROZEN COOKED DICED CHICKEN PURCHASE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced plans to purchase frozen cooked diced chicken meat from fowl for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs. Offers will be invited from the trade for frozen cooked diced chicken meat, produced from ready-to-cook fowl (a class of mature female chickens).

Diced chicken will be packed in four 10-pound (4.54 kg) packages to a net weight of 40 pounds (18.14 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,000 shipping containers totaling 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg).

Invitation No. 1, inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, Aug. 7, is being issued this week. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, Aug. 11, for product to be delivered Oct. 1 to Oct. 15. Subsequent invitations will be issued inviting offers due the first and third Monday of each month.

There are some important changes to this year's program. Offers may now be submitted electronically via the Internet by accessing the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) at <http://pcsd.usda.gov/debes> (translates into a connection of <http://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>). The time of bid opening has been changed to 12 noon., Central Time, to correspond with DEBES. In addition, some item numbers and the associated quantities (25 percent total) for frozen cooked diced chicken will be set aside for small business concerns. For the poultry industry, a business with less than 500 employees is classified as a small business under the Small Business Act. The remaining item numbers and the associated quantities will be solicited for open competition from both small and large businesses. Certifications, representations, and warranties will be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. Certifications must be received by the Contracting Officer prior to submitting a bid.

Information regarding these requirements is contained in Announcement PY-239, which is being distributed to the trade. Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specifications and are cautioned to offer only quantities they reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

Although most other provisions of the program are similar to the program operated last year, offerors are urged to read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-239, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Frozen Cooked Diced Chicken dated July 1999, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer, USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260, PO Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456. An electronic version of this food purchase report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cp>.

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